Rome 18th May 1876

My dear Maria

There's a bit of business for you to do for me to write the address of Monte as I wish a Lady to pay him for me £2 & then I want you to accept it. Small as it is I hope trade to it several other miles for I have discovered that Keats' letter sold to Lord C. Dilke for £5 was worth more than double as a letter sold lately for £13.5.0 & as I have not only several letters but also a M.S. poem I hope to realise a good sum which I propose to be yours as you preserved the former letter so well

I now hope you are enjoying warm air at last for you have had no end of Winter & that poor dear Tom is picking up & is going down the street to have another Photo done!

I am having a Photo done from my Portrait

for you so that you may not depend on Walter

I am very comfortable enjoying the tranquility of Rome as contrasted with the turmoil of London

What a splendid return you have all given to the Prince of Wales - how will it was said by a French Ambassador "that the loyalty of the English was not a principle but a positive passion

My painting goes on very slowly for I am not able to work every day. I call it idleness but no doubt it is feebleness for I can only do a mile now - but I must go to Tolfa in July I hope to get up a little strength some little touch of rheumatism hangs about me when it rains so I take 10 baths there is no fear of robbers as the people are so poor & the town so well guarded - I propose to go by coach & not by rail & my good Doctor will accompany me - Do you hear more of Caroline? for Constantinople is coming into Cash

Your loving brother Joe